**TO:** Principal Smith

**FROM:** Jenny Harris

**RE:** New 11th Grade English Unit

As part of the current 11th grade English curriculum, students are required to study a variety of poetry genres. I currently require that my students create a journal of poetry that they have written throughout the year. This activity addresses the Georgia Standard ELABLRL4 where the student employs a variety of writing genres to demonstrate a comprehensive grasp of significant ideas in selected literary works. Traditionally this unit is an in-class activity where students swap their journals with other students for peer review or read them aloud to the class for feedback. I have been interested in using technology to support this unit and I am proposing using the educational social media website Edmodo for students to publish their poetry and provide feedback to each other via the Internet.

Our students, as you know, are very technology savvy and by incorporating technology into this poetry unit I am hoping to tap into their comfort level with the use of social media, as well as their creativity. My goals for this unit are to increase my students’ engagement with each other, knowledge and understanding of poetry, technical proficiency, and ultimately create a sense of collaboration among them. Using technology as part of this unit also addresses Georgia Standard ELA11W3, where students use technology to support their writing.

Edmodo is somewhat similar to Facebook, except it was designed specifically for use in educational settings. The way the site works is that each student will go online to create an account and then I will add them to the “group” which I will create. I will post a weekly assignment and then each student will need to submit their poem by a specified date. Students will then be required to provide feedback to three other students on their work. At the end of the unit, each student will pick two poems that they have written to contribute to our class poetry book.

I would like to start this unit in August of the 2012-2013 school year. I plan for students to be able to do the majority of the work on their home computers, but will make the necessary arrangements for students who do not have access to this equipment at home. This would require that the two computers in my room have access to the Edmodo site. This site is currently blocked so I will need Technical Support to complete this requirement and will be happy to submit the request upon your approval of this proposal

I understand the risks involved with using social media in the classroom; therefore I would like to spend two class periods covering “Digital Citizenship” which addresses ethics and appropriate behavior when using social media sites like Edmodo. I think this is something that will benefit my students beyond just this class but also sets the precedent for what I expect as far as their behavior while using the Edmodo site. You have my assurance that I will be monitoring my student’s activity closely and will deal with any issues in a timely manner. I would also encourage you to become a member of our site so that you can see the work that we are doing.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss my proposal further, please contact me at your earliest convenience.